UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25523
5 April 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 2 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the talking points delivered to the representatives of four of the permanent members of the Security Council, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, on 2 April 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Talking points

1. Iraq considers the presentation of the paper containing the talking points on 26 March 1993 by the representatives of the four Powers to be unjustified in present circumstances.

2. Iraq has demonstrated on numerous occasions, notably at two formal meetings of the Security Council held in March 1992 and November 1992, the extent to which the resolutions of the Security Council have been implemented. By any objective and impartial evaluation, the great extent and substantive character of such implementation, particularly with respect to resolution 687 (1991), require that the iniquitous embargo long maintained against the Iraqi people should be lifted and the other unjust measures and the tendentious political and propaganda campaign against Iraq be brought to an end. This has not yet happened for political reasons that have no connection with the provisions of those resolutions or with the aims of the United Nations.

3. The statement made in the talking points to the effect that Iraq remains in breach of the full scope of the Security Council resolutions is a tendentious inference that bears no relation to the true state of affairs and uses generalities in order to mislead. Iraq has requested repeatedly that an objective appraisal be made, in accordance with proper professional, technical and legal criteria and without regard for tendentious political positions, of its implementation of the Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 687 (1991). But this impartial and responsible request has not been heeded. Iraq requests that such an appraisal be undertaken without delay by a delegation appointed by Iraq and a delegation appointed by the four Powers in question, with the participation of China, so that a correct assessment can be made of the matter and the results presented to the Security Council. At the same time, it calls attention to the need for the five permanent members of the Council, in particular, and for the Security Council itself to honour the commitment made to Iraq under the provisions of paragraphs 21 and 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

4. The talking points include the statement that the "Coalition" has taken certain steps to monitor and supervise the implementation of the resolutions. We do not understand this statement. What resolutions are meant? What competence do the States that call themselves the "Coalition" have to monitor and supervise the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the framework of the mechanisms and responsibilities set forth in the Charter of the United Nations?

5. The reference made in the talking points to "provocations" is unfounded. The talk of certain military actions that Iraq is planning to take has come up repeatedly in the past two years. It is groundless, and it is being used as a pretext to perpetuate the climate of hostility towards Iraq and justify the maintenance of the unjust embargo against it.

6. Iraq does not understand the purpose of the paper concerning the weekly military meetings at Fayidah. On 19 January 1993, Iraq announced a unilateral

cease-fire initiative. In any case, Iraq cannot accept any formula which might be open to the interpretation that it agrees to the air exclusion zones imposed north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel. This measure is unlawful, it was not adopted on the basis of any United Nations resolution, and its aim is of a political nature, namely to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, to undermine the situation in the country and to dismember it on an ethnic and confessional basis. However, in order to avoid any friction or misunderstanding, Iraq is not opposed to an exchange of views with the States concerned on the iniquitous decision to impose aerial exclusion zones, and we consider that this should be done through diplomatic channels in New York.

7. Iraq will remain committed to the defence of its sovereignty and independence. It calls upon the four Powers concerned to respect that fact in keeping with their responsibilities as permanent members of the Security Council, as they are required to do by the Charter of the United Nations.

8. In order to establish the facts, it must be said that the three countries that imposed the aerial exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq by unilateral decision and that have used armed force to maintain them, as they did in January 1992, have impeded Iraq's ability to defend its sovereignty against acts of aggression by the Iranian air force, as was the case with the Iranian air raids against Iraq on 5 April 1992 and 13 March 1993. These countries stood by and watched such aggression take place.